The ANCIENT Church Catechisme,

WITH

Some small additionall Explanations.

Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines, Heb. 13.9.

Hold fast the forme of sound words. 2 Tim. 1.13.

Printed in the time of the Church's distressement.

Q. *INto what religion are you baptised?*

A. "Into the Christian religion "revealed in the holy Scriptures.

"Q. *What doth your Baptisme into the Chri-*
"*stian Religion oblige you unto?*

A. These three things:

First, to forsake the Devill and all his works; the pomps, vanities, and pollutions of this evill world, and all the sinfull lust of the Flesh.

"Secondly, That I should live and dye in the "beleife and profession of the Christian faith.

Thirdly, That I should keep Gods holy will and commandments, and walke in the same all the dayes of my life.

Q. *Rehearse the Articles of your Christian faith.*

A. I beleive in God the Father Allmighty, Maker of Heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son our Lord, which was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, he descended into Hell, the third day he arose againe from the dead he ascended into heaven, he sitteth at the rigt hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Catholick Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveneſſe of sins, the resurrection of the bo-

body, and the life everlasting.

Q. *What do you chiefly learne from these articles?*

A. 1 I learne to believe in God the Father that made me, and all the world.

2 In God the Son, who redeemed me, and all mankind.

3 In God the Holy Ghost, who sanctifieth me, and all the elect people of God.

Q. *Repete the ten Commandements.*

A. 1. God spake all these words, saying, (*Exod.*20.) I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likenesse of any thing that is in Heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth, thou shalt not bow down thy selfe unto them, nor serve them: For I the Lord thy God am a Jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shew mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandements.

3. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vaine. For the Lord will not hold him guiltlesse that taketh his name in vain.

4. Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. Six dayes ſhalt thou labour, and do all thy worke, but the Seaventh is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou ſhalt do no manner of worke, Thou nor thy Son, nor thy daughter, thy man-ſervant, thy maid-ſervant, nor thy cattle, nor thy ſtranger that is within thy gates. For in ſix dayes the Lord made the heaven and the Earth, the Sea, and all that is therein, and reſted the ſeaventh day, wherefore the Lord bleſſed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

5. Honour thy Father and thy Mother that thy dayes may be long in the Land, which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

6. Thou ſhalt not kill. 7. Thou ſhalt not commit adultery. 8. Thou ſhalt not ſteale. 9. Thou ſhalt not bear falſe witneſſe againſt thy Neighbour. 10. Thou ſhalt not covet thy Neighbours houſe, Thou ſhalt not covet thy Neighbours wife, nor his man ſervant, nor his maid ſervant, nor his Oxe, nor his Aſſe, nor any thing that is His.

Q. *What do you chiefly learn from theſe Commandements?*

A. I learn two things: my Duty towards God, and my duty towards my Neighbour.

Q. *What is your duty towards God?*

A. My duty towards God is to believe

in him, to love him, to feare him with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soule, with all my strength: to worship him, to give him thankes, to put my whole trust in him, to call upon him, to honour his holy name and his word, and to serve him truly all the dayes of my life.

Q. *What is your duty towards your Neighbour?*

A. My duty towards my Neighbour is to love him as my selfe: to do to all men as I would they should do to me. To love, honour and succour my Father and Mother. To honour and obey the civill Magistrate. To submit my selfe to all my governours, teachers, spirituall Pastors, and masters. To order my selfe lowly and respectively to all my betters. To hurt no body by word or deed, to be true and just in all my Dealings. To bear no malice nor hatred in my heart.

To keep my hands from picking and stealing, my tongue from evill speaking, lying and slandering.

To keep my body in temperance, sobriety, and chastity. Not to covet, nor desire other mens goods, but to learne and labour truely, to get my own living, and to do my duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call me.

Q. "*My good Friend (or child) have ye*

"*hitherto exactly obeyed and fulfilled what*
"*God hath commanded?*

A. "I do humbly confesse that I have in
"many things sinned and offended against
"the good commands of God, both in
"thought, word, and deed.

Q. "*What is the wages and desert of sin?*

A. "The wages of sin is death, the curse
"of the Law, and wrath of God.

Q. "*Whereupon do you place your hope for*
"*escaping wrath, and to obtaine eternall life?*

A. "I place my hope and trust in the
"mercy of God, and the merits of Jesus
"Christ, who died to save us from our sins.

Q. "*Will God for Christs sake forgive*
"*you your sins, although you continue impe-*
"*nitent in them?*

A. "By no means. That we may partake
"of the benefits of Christs death, God doth
"require we should turne to him by faith &
"repentance, and lead a New and holy life.

Q. "*Doth God require of you of necessity*
"*for salvation an exact performance of the*
"*law for the time to come?*

A. "God is pleased under the Gospell
"to accept through his son the sincere
"though imperfect obedience of those that
"truly repent and believe in Christ, and
"doth cover and pardon their sins and in-
"firmities.

Q. "*Are you able of your selfe to lead a*
"*holy life for the future?*

A.

A. "I am by no means able of my selfe "to do any good. All my sufficiency is "from the grace of God.

Q. "*What meanes hath God appointed* "*thee for obtaining his grace and the in-* "*crease thereof?*

A. "The carefull and diligent attendance "upon his holy ordinances. Chiefly his word, the Sacraments, publick and private "prayer.

Q. "*What patterne or direction hath* "*Christ left you for prayer?*

A. He hath taught us after this manner to pray. Our father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdome come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our dayly bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespasse against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evill, for thine is the Kingdome, the power and the Glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

Q. *What dost thou desire of God in this prayer?*

A. I desire my Lord God our heavenly Father, to send his grace unto me, and to all people, that we may worship him, serve him, and obey him as we ought to do. And I pray unto God, that he will send us all things that be needfull both for our bodies and soules, and that he will be mercifull unto

God his and forgive us our sins; and that it will please him to save and defend us in all dangers, Ghostly and bodily, and that he will keep us from all sin and wickednesse, and from our Ghostly enemy, and from everlasting death: and this I trust he will do of his mercy and goodnesse, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and therefore I say, Amen, so be it.

Q. "*What call you the word of God?*

A. "The holy Scriptures, which we "are bound continually to read, search, and "meditate upon, and also to attend unto "the expositions and wholsome exhortati-"ons and instructions, delivered from "thence by the Pastors of the Church.

Q. *How many Sacraments hath Christ ordained for his Church?*

A. Two only as generally necessary to salvation, viz. Baptisme, and the Lords Supper.

Q. *What mean you by this word Sacrament?*

A. I meane an outward and visible sign of an inward and spirituall grace given unto us, ordained by Christ himselfe, as a means, whereby we receive the same, and a pledge to assure us thereof.

Q. *What are the parts in a sacrament?*

A. Two. The outward visible signe, and the inward and spirituall grace.

Q. *What is the outward signe in Baptisme?*

 A. Water,

A. Water, wherein the person baptized is dipped or sprinkled in the name of the Father, Son, and holy Ghost.

Q. *What is the inward and spirituall grace?*

A. A death unto sin, and a new birth unto righteousnesse. For being by nature born in sin, and children of wrath, we are thereby made children of God.

Q. *What is required of the persons to be baptized?*

A. Repentance, whereby they forsake sin; and faith, whereby they stedfastly believe the promises of the Gospell.

Q. *Why then are infants baptized, when by reason of their tender yeares they cannot performe them?*

A. Yes they do performe them by their sureties, who promise and vow them both in their names, which when they come to age themselves are bound to performe.

Q. *Why was the Sacrament of the Lords supper ordained?*

A. For the continuall remembrance of Christs death, and the benefits we receive thereby.

Q. *What is the outward signe in the Lords supper?*

A. Bread and wine: both which the Lord hath commanded us to receive.

Q. *What is the inward part or thing signified?*

A. The

A. The body and bloud of Christ, which are verily and indeed taken and received by the faithfull in the Lords supper.

Q. *What are the benefits whereof we are Partakers thereby?*

A. The strengthning and refreshing of our soules by the body and bloud of Christ, as our bodies are by bread and wine.

Q. *What is required of them which come to the Lords supper?*

A. To examine themselves whether they repent them truely of their former sin, stedfastly purposing to lead a holy life, have a lively faith in Gods mercy through Christ, with a thankfull remembrance of his death, and be in charity with all men.

A Prayer for spirituall wisdome.

O Mercifull God, the Father of Lights, from whom cometh every good gift, enlighten my darke understanding, that I may clearely discover thy will and my own duety. Sanctify my corrupt heart, that I may be willing to learn, and ready to observe the same all the daies of my life: and so preserve me by thy grace from the Flesh, the world, and the Devill, that when this fraile life is ended, I may be admitted into thy everlasting kingdome in heaven. Grant this O good Lord, for Jesus Christ his sake Amen.

A Prayer for the Morning.

ALmighty and moſt merciſull God, I thy unworthy ſervant deſire humbly to praiſe thy name: for that it hath pleaſed thy gratious goodneſſe to protect me from harmes and dangers this night paſt, and haſt mercifully preſerv'd me and provided for my ſoule and body all my daies. I humbly beſeech thee for thy Son Jeſus ſake to pardon all my ſins, negligences, diſobediences, my unrighteouſneſſe and uncharitableneſſe, my groſſe unthankfulneſſe for thy mercies, and the unfruitfulneſſe of my Converſation. Good Lord be merciſull to my iniquities, for they are many and great. Spare me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies through Jeſus Chriſt: and for his ſake I beſeech thee beſtow thy heavenly grace upon me. Work in me a godly ſorrow and ſhame for all my ſins, a ſound faith in thy Son Chriſt, and a ſincere purpoſe of a New life. Be good unto me in my ſoule, and in my body. Direct and proſper all the works of my hands. Enable me to deny all ungodlineſſe, and worldly luſts, and to live a godly, a righteous, and a ſober life all my daies. O Lord hear me for Chriſt his ſake. Amen.

A Prayer for Night.

MOſt gracious God, who ſeeſt all things, and only knoweſt the hearts

of

of the children of men, I thy sinfull servant humbly acknowledge my selfe unworthy to take thy holy name into my impure lips. To me O Lord most justly belongs shame and everlasting confusion for my sinfull life, my evill thoughts, wicked words, unjust ungodly actions. O Lord enter not into judgment with thy servant, deale not with me according to my deservings, but according to thy rich compassion for Christ his sake pardon the transgressions of my whole life, and of this day past. Let me not lye down this night under thy just displeasure, nor in the guilt of any sin. Sprinkle my conscience with the blood of thy son, shrowd me under the wings of thy gracious protection. Cause me to take my rest in peace and safety. Cause me to heare and think of thy loving kindnesse betimes in the morning, if thou shalt please so long to continue my life, yea cause me every day to walke in thy holy feare, and love, and in charity with all men. Wean me from this vain life: Settle my affections upon things above. Fit and prepare me for thy eternall Kingdome. Make me alwaies watch and be ready. O Lord heare my prayer and have mercy on me, for Christ his sake, Amen.

The prayers put into the plurall for me, may serve for a family, if need be.

FINIS.